Letters to the Editor

Good Time to Take Over CPR

Questions and suggestions to the government and people of Canada: After taking over three railways and setting up the TCA some time ago, would this be a good time to take over the CPR and put the handling of all passenger, mail and freight under government control and ownership?

Under one control passengers should get better and more accurate directions when changing from one line to another. It is my opinion that the people of Canada have already paid for the CPR as they were given many millions of dollars and millions of acres of land, also tax-free forever on the main line.

The people have been paying high passenger and freight rates for about 73 years.

D. H. BRYCE.

Royal Oak.

Embargo Cha-Cha

There are many music lovers in Canada who appreciate good music in its original composition by Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Grieg and 100 others.

Why not put an embargo on all American cha-cha distortions of priceless musical education?

I'm not a Commie, but would say that in that respect, the USSR are a million miles ahead of the USA. They would never tolerate such garbage in Russia.

W. A. C. HOLLAND.

Box 491, Duncan.

Fool's Paradise

With all the B.C. legislators hitting at the CPR not one has had the courage to face the fact that increased wage costs, beyond sound economics, along with reduced passengers, are the cause of the withdrawals.

The CPR held out against the 25 per cent increase to SIU, etc., for months and when the 22½ per cent was finally given they immediately did the only thing possible in the circumstances.

This same condition applied to the withdrawal of the Union Steamships. We have been living for years in the fool's paradise of giving higher and still higher wages with the almost complete ignoring of the fact that we would have to suffer the consequences. With general costs of replacements and upkeep so high due to increased wages and other costs (also due to high wages) no company should be expected to indefinitely continue to operate at a huge loss, especially when there is no evidence that the crazy spiral won't continue indefinitely.

Our politicians and people are now reaping and suffering the whirlwind of permitting a labor dictatorship to rule the country, and, they still tell us we have freedom.

The cost of living has risen to 126 since 1949 while wages generally have risen to 172 and more. It should be recognized as creditable to our competitive system that business has managed to hold prices at 126 and still the unions repeatedly try to tell us that increased wages should not effect prices.

FRANK H. PARTRIDGE.

1604 Belmont Avenue.

Price of Progress

At our convenience and on countless occasions we have taken TCA or gone to Nanaimo for our mainland journeys. Now we are faced with the result: a cut in CPR business makes no difference. Sentiment would know the way to keep ships running is to patronize them.

However, the price of progress is change. Providing ships at a loss is disheartening to capital, labor and sentiment, the value of which seems to be lost in our work-a-day world.

Wasted transportation can be terrific in another sense, too. Just watch the number of motor cars carrying one person—the driver, lord of all he surveys—reflecting our capacity for expecting miracles. Never did so few expect so much for their convenience.

Ships cost money. Sentiment nothing but ourselves. Is it not time to give sentiment a chance?

ALAN LESLIE GREIG.

1141 Fort Street.

One Law for All

I believe that most of the leading packing houses have now adopted modern, humane methods of slaughter, but there are still far too many packers using the same old brutal tortures on defenceless creatures.

A humane slaughter bill was introduced in 1957, but I would like to draw attention to the second bill introduced in 1958, with special reference to the clause where it is declared an offence to slaughter food animals without using approved humane methods except where the animal was prepared for slaughter or was slaughtered in accordance with religious ritual. It seems to me a terrible thing that an animal can be tortured and slaughtered, suffering unnecessary pain in the name of religion, and the penalty of the law is not enacted.

If an exception is to be made in the case of certain religious rituals, why should the Doukhobors be forced by law to send their children to school against their religious beliefs, or the Jehovah Witnesses required to accept blood transfusions against their religious beliefs? Where is the justice?

Surely the law should be for all and everybody and no exceptions made either on religious grounds or any other grounds.

BARBARA FROEBELIUS.

308 Chester Avenue.

In the Face of Loss

It was good to see that a Colonist correspondent spoke in defence of the much maligned CPR.

I do not understand the viewpoint of those who insist that the company be compelled to carry on in face of increasing loss of revenue. If a shopkeeper finds that a certain line of goods is a loss he promptly cuts it out. No one thinks of demanding that he be compelled to go on with the unprofitable line or shut up shop altogether. That seems to be what the agitation and furore amounts to in the case of the CPR.

As for the company being "arrogant and dictatorial," what have they done for years but concede and conciliate in the face of greater and more fantastic demands by these employees?

The CPR has a record to be proud of, and their dignity and good name are known throughout the world. I hope they keep their resolution in this matter. Fair-minded people at least are behind them.

(Mrs.) LILIAN F. HEYWOOD.

Tudor Road.

Professors Stop Feeding 'Fallout' Milk to Children

WINNIPEG (CP) — Three University of Manitoba physics professors say a five-fold increase in the strontium-90 content of Manitoba milk will make it unfit for human consumption. Two of them say they have stopped feeding it to their children.

Professors F. M. Kelly, B. G. Hogg and M. E. Kettner said the fallout content of milk tested in Winnipeg had increased nearly four-fold between May, 1957 and March, 1958. They said this is "cause for concern."

Professors Kelly and Hogg said they are giving their children powdered milk from Ontario, where the strontium-90 fallout count is lower than in Manitoba.

The three were commenting on a statement Saturday by Dr. E. A. Watkinson of the federal health department in which he said the department wished to "allay fears and apprehension" about strontium-90 fallout in Canada.

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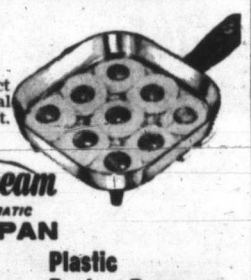

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